And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE NEW AVENGERS

The Avengers are on the run! Until they can be sure who's on their side, Spider-Man, Captain America, Luke Cage, Ronin, Mockingbird, Spider-Woman and Ms. Marvel are using Captain America's hideout in Brooklyn as a safe house. Collectively they try to keep the values of the Avengers name alive even though they're living on the wrong side of the law.

Norman Osborn is the new political and media darling and director of H.A.M.M.E.R., the national peacekeeping task force, which includes his own team of Avengers.

The Hood has been running a syndicate of powerful criminals but has disappeared since losing his powers. Loki, the god of mischief, has offered The Hood a way to reclaim his power: The Asgardian Norn Stones.

But certain members of the Hood's syndicate, led by Doctor Jonas Harrow, have decided to strike out on their own with top secret technology that can siphon away super-powers. As a show of good will they turn over the tech to Osborn, but not before the New Avengers escape, desperate to help their ailing teammate Luke Cage.

The New Avengers run to the hero-friendly Night Nurse for assistance, but she is unable to help due to Cage's unbreakable skin. Meanwhile, Osborn has surrounded the building.

With one last gasp of selflessness, Cage gives himself up to Osborn's custody and medical facilities, allowing his teammates the chance to escape...

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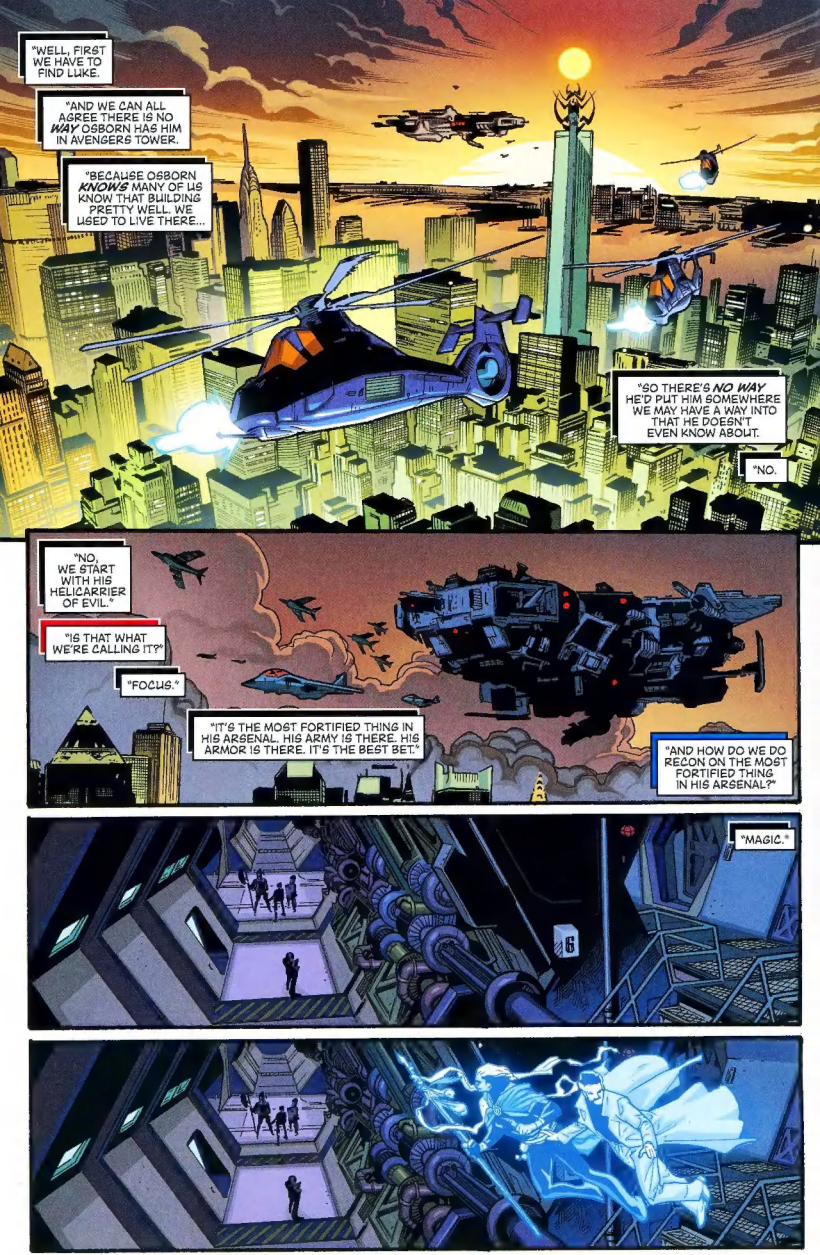
THE DOCTORS SAID HE WOKE UP 22 MINUTES AGO.
TELL MISTER CAGE HE IS UNDER ARREST.
MISTER CAGE, I'M VICTORIA HAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF H.A.M.M.E.R.
I'M HERE TO TELL YOU YOU'RE OFFICIALLY UNDER ARREST FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE.
TELL HIM THE DEAL.
THE DEAL WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE TO YOU IS AS FOLLOWS:
IN RETURN FOR THE IDENTITIES AND LOCATION OF YOUR TEAM OF "AVENGERS"...
...YOUR WIFE AND CHILD WILL AVOID ALL PROSECUTION.
THE DEAL IS OFF THE TABLE AT MIDNIGHT.

AVENGERS HIDEOUT. FRIDAY NIGHT.
MS. MARVEL
OKAY... YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW WE'RE GETTING LUKE CAGE OUT OF OSBORN'S CLENCHED FIST?
YOU WANT TO KNOW THE PLAN? THE PLAN IS THIS:
WE GO GET HIM.
NOW TELL THEM HOW...
SPIDER-MAN
WILSON FISK, THE KINGPIN, FOR YEARS WOULD START SOME KIND OF HOOPLA ON ONE SIDE OF TOWN.
HE'D TOSS OUT THE STILT-MAN OR THE OWL OR SOME SHENANIGANS AT US...
ME, DAREDEVIL, THE PUNISHER...
AND HE'D DISTRACT US.
WE'D RUN OVER THERE TO PUT OUT THE FIRE. MEANWHILE, HE'S GOT SOMETHING GOING ON SOMEWHERE ELSE. SOMETHING BIG.
LIKE A DRUG SHIPMENT THE SIZE OF ALL GET OUT. WE'RE FIGHTING OVER THOUSANDS... HE'S MAKING MILLIONS.
IT WAS ALL PLANNED. ALL IN OUR HONOR. AND IT WORKED.
UNTIL WE FIGURED IT OUT. AND EVEN THEN...
CAPTAIN AMERICA
A LOOKY LOO.
MOCKINGBIRD
RONIN
THE AVENGERS ARE GOING TO PUT ON A SHOW.
WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A SPECTACLE.
WE'RE GOING TO GIVE HIM THE THROWDOWN WITH US HE SO BADLY WANTS.
MEANWHILE...
LOOKY LOO.
EXACTLY.
SPIDER-WOMAN
AND I'LL TELL YA, I'LL BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT, I DIDN'T THINK A PLAN LIKE THIS COULD WORK.
I DIDN'T THINK WE HAD THE MANPOWER TO PULL IT OFF.
THERE'S ONLY THE HANDFUL OF US AGAINST ALL OF THEM.
AND, I MEAN, IF THE AVENGERS ARE OVER THERE DOING THIS LOOKY LOO, WHO'S GETTING LUKE?
BUT THEN I REMEMBERED...
JESSICA JONES-CAGE
YOU DON'T @#$^ WITH LUKE CAGE.

DOCTOR VOODOO
BECAUSE LUKE CAGE HAS FRIENDS.
LUKE CAGE HAS BEEN THE MAN TO A LOT OF PEOPLE FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
MISTY KNIGHT
AND NEVER ASKED FOR A DAMN THING.
NOTHIN.'
THE THING
AND THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL WE'RE LETTING HIM GO DOWN LIKE THIS.
IRON FIST
HELLCAT
IT WILL NOT HAPPEN.
VALKYRIE
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN, EXACTLY?
DAREDEVIL
DOCTOR STRANGE


"WELL, FIRST WE HAVE TO FIND LUKE.
"AND WE CAN ALL AGREE THERE IS NO *WAY* OSBORN HAS HIM IN AVENGERS TOWER.
"BECAUSE OSBORN *KNOWS* MANY OF US KNOW THAT BUILDING PRETTY WELL. WE USED TO LIVE THERE...
"SO THERE'S *NO WAY* HE'D PUT HIM SOMEWHERE WE MAY HAVE A WAY INTO THAT HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT.
"NO.
"NO. WE START WITH HIS HELICARRIER OF EVIL."
"IS THAT WHAT WE'RE CALLING IT?"
"FOCUS."
"IT'S THE MOST FORTIFIED THING IN HIS ARSENAL. HIS ARMY IS THERE. HIS ARMOR IS THERE. IT'S THE BEST BET."
"AND HOW DO WE DO RECON ON THE MOST FORTIFIED THING IN HIS ARSENAL?"
"MAGIC."

"DOCTOR STRANGE AND DOCTOR VOODOO WILL DO SOME ASTRAL PLANE RECON."
"THE GOOD NEWS IS HE IS ALIVE..."

BUT?
BUT HE IS NOT OUT OF THE WOODS.
OH GOD.
I'M NOT TRYING TO SCARE YOU, JESSICA. HE IS A STRONG MAN. A VERY STRONG MAN.
AND HIS VITALS ARE GOOD. THE HEART SURGERY WAS A SUCCESS.
BUT IT'S ONLY HALF THE BATTLE.
SO THEY DID OPERATE ON HIM?
THEY DID. HE'S HEALING.
LET'S GO GET HIM! NO FANCY STUFF. LET'S JUST GO!
JESSICA... "NO FANCY STUFF" GETS US ALL IN TROUBLE. "NO FANCY STUFF" DOESN'T WORK.
WE--WE HAVE THE NUMBERS.
WE DON'T, JESS.
THE GOOD NEWS IS HIS LONGSHOT PLAN WORKED. THEY WERE FORCED TO OPERATE ON HIM. THEY SAVED HIS LIFE.
IT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE. THIS IS GOOD.
AND NOW HE'S A PRISONER!
I WAS ABLE TO CAST A SPELL OF GARATIGUNI.
GREAT.
IT'S A BASIC HEALING SPELL. IT'LL HELP GET HIM ON HIS FEET.
IT'S GOOD STUFF.
...
THANK YOU. I'M SORRY, I'M JUST...
IT'S OKAY.
THAT'S GOOD AND ALL BUT I-- DAMN.
IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME-- I THINK I HAVE TO WARN YOU...

THERE'S A VERY GOOD CHANCE OSBORN WILL KNOW YOU WERE THERE.
HOW WOULD SOMEONE LIKE NORMAN OSBORN EVEN KNOW THE ASTRAL PLANE EXISTS?
LAST YEAR, MY COMPANY WAS ASKED TO BID ON SOME SECURITY TECH THAT WOULD ENABLE SOMEONE LIKE ME TO KNOW IF SOMEONE LIKE YOU WAS SNEAKING AROUND.
REALLY?
AND IF I KNEW ABOUT IT, THAT MEANS TONY STARK KNEW ABOUT IT.
AND IF TONY STARK KNEW ABOUT IT, HE BOUGHT IT OR HE PROBABLY WENT BACK TO HIS LAB AND FIGURED OUT HOW TO DO IT ALL BY HIMSELF.
THAT'S BEEN MY EXPERIENCE.
MAN.
THAT--THAT IS DISCONCERTING.
AND WHAT WAS TONY STARK'S IS NOW NORMAN OSBORN'S.
EXACTLY.
SO WHAT? HE KNOWS WE'RE GOING TO GO AFTER LUKE. HE KNOWS SOMEONE--
EXACTLY, SO...
DOES OSBORN HAVE ANYBODY ON HIS SIDE THAT COULD CHALLENGE OUR MYSTIC ARTS?
I DON'T KNOW.
ASSUME YES.
EXACTLY.
FINE, FINE! NOW WHAT?
SHUT UP.

CAMP H.A.M.M.E.R., NEW MEXICO.
I NEVER GET TO YELL IT.
NOT ONCE.
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
THIS IS TASKMASTER! CAMP H.A.M.M.E.R. IS UNDER ATTACK.
I REPEAT: WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!
SOMEONE GET OSBORN THE @#$% OUT OF BED!

THE H.A.M.M.E.R. HELICARRIER.
WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?
THE SECURITY TEAM DOES AN HOURLY INSPECTION SWEEP FOR ENERGY FLUCTUATIONS AND OTHER ANOMALIES IN THE SECURITY FOOTAGE.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
THAT, SIR, IS AN ENERGY FLUCTUATION.
IS THAT PEOPLE?
IT'S HARD TO SAY... BUT WE WERE INFILTRATED.
WE'LL HAVE THE EXPERTS HERE IN THE A.M. TO--
YOU'LL HAVE THEM HERE NOW.
YES, SIR.
IT LOOKS LIKE GHOSTS.
IT COULD BE THE HAND, HYDRA, A.I.M., ALIEN THREAT...
11:37 04
IT'S TIME TO MOVE CAGE TO A NEW UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.
YES, SIR.
WE HAVE A CODE RED EMERGENCY!
CAMP H.A.M.M.E.R. IS UNDER ATTACK!!
BY WHO?
NO ONE EVEN KNOWS WHERE IT IS!
IT'S--HOLD ON-- IT'S COMING IN--
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND...HIS AVENGERS.
THAT'S AN UNUSUALLY BALLSY MOVE.
THEY THINK WE'RE HIDING CAGE THERE.
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

I WANT ALL HANDS ON DECK!
ALL BATTLE-STATIONS REPORTING IN SEQUENCE AND IN ORDER!
I WANT FULL REPORTS FROM ALL DECKS. I WANT A SECURITY BATTALION ON THE FLIGHT DECK AND READY FOR THE PATIENT TRANSFER!
AND WILL SOMEONE TURN THE DAMN RED LIGHT OFF!
I MEAN REALLY.
THANK YOU.
THIS IS STYLAR. WE'RE ON THE FLIGHT DECK. TRANSFERRING THE PATIENT NOW. OVER.
WE READ YOU.
CAREFUL! CAREFUL WITH THAT.
YEAH, WE DON'T WANT HIM TO GET A BOO BOO.
THAT'S NOT YOUR CALL.
TRANSPORT COPTER NINE IS JUICED AND READY FOR TAKEOFF, OVER.
EASY!
THE FLIGHT CREW IS UP AND READY.
YOU GUYS WANT TO GIVE US A HAND WITH THE--
OH MY GOD.

HURAGH!
HOLY!
GGGO!!!!
WHAT?
WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!
GET BACK!
ATTACK-- IT IT IT!!
EVERYONE IN FORMATION!

OH MY GOD!
GUN! SOMEONE GIVE ME A GUN!
GIVE ME THAT!
BUT MA'AM, IT'S MY--
WHICH WAY TO THE DAMN FLIGHT DECK?!
IS THIS THE LOCK TO THE FLIGHT DECK?!
WHO HAS THE CODE?!
IT'S ONE OF THEM.
I-I DO.
THEN OPEN IT!
I'M TRYING!
DENIED
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
TODAY!
I HAVE IT.
YOU DON'T!
I--
ACCEPTED

WE'VE GOT COMPANY!
I'VE GOT ANOTHER IMAGERY INCANTATION PREPARED.
YOU GET ON BOARD! I'VE GOT THIS.
YOU'LL CRASH THIS THING RIGHT INTO NEW YORK CITY!
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! FIRE IT UP.
FIRE FIRE FIRE!
KRA-KOOM

07
THAT WAS SOMETHING.
GOT YA!
MAN.
EVERYONE IN ONE PIECE?
WELL, WE'RE ALL GONNA GET AUDITED.
LUKE?
'SSSGOINON?
OH, THANK GOD.
HHELL ARE YOU GUYS DOING?

CAMP H.A.M.M.E.R.
WOW.
LIKE A BOMB HIT IT.
THIS IS HILARIOUS.
OOOH, I NEEDED THIS.
DID YOU HAPPEN TO SEE WHICH WAY THEY WENT?
NO, RRRR, I DID NOT.
YOU LET THEM DO THIS TO YOU?
LET THEM?
HOW MANY OF THEM WERE THERE?
ENOUGH.
DID THEY HAPPEN TO SAY ANYTHING?
NOTHING I RECALL.
IT IS HARD TO HEAR WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA'S FOOT COMPLETELY UP YOUR--
BE STILL.
WHOA.
TELL ME YOU DIDN'T JUST DO THAT.
THIS IS OSBORN.
MISS HAND? CALM DOWN, I CAN'T UNDER--
CALM DOWN, MISS HAND.
YES. NO...
WE WERE PREPARED FOR THIS.

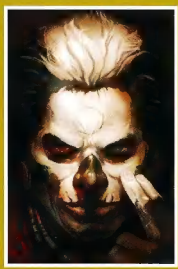
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THEY'RE PUNCHING EACH OTHER.
FANTASTIC.
LET ME SEE. CAN I SEE?
NO. THESE ARE EXPENSIVE.
WE SHOULD GO. LIKE NOW.
SETTLE DOWN.
THEY CAN SEE US.
THE CLOAK IS ON. WE'RE INVISIBLE.
I FEEL NAKED.
MAYBE IT'S THE FULL BODY STOCKING?
BEEP BEEP
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?
SAME THING.
TIME TO GO.
YEAH?
WHO IS IT?
SSHH.
THEY GOT HIM.
LUKE'S OKAY.
BOOM.
LOOK. OSBORN'S LEAVING.
GOT YA.
WE WIN.
EXACTLY.

YOU DID WHAT?
HEY, IT WASN'T MY PLAN.
IT WAS YOURS.
WELL, I DIDN'T EXPECT ALL A'DIS. DID EVERYONE MAKE IT OUT OKAY?
JUST A COUPLE OF SCRATCHES, MOSTLY ON THEIR SIDE.
I TOLD YOU THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY MAGIC GUARDS, OR MAGIC TECH GUARDS.
FEH BUMP FEH BUMP FEH BUMP
YOU NEVER KNOW.
IT'LL BE A WEIRD DAY IN MY LIFE WHEN TECHNOLOGY CATCHES UP TO THE MYSTIC ARTS.
WELL, I'M TELLING YOU, THAT ALREADY HAPPENED.
DOESN'T MATTER. LUKE'S BACK. AND HE'S SAFE.
THANK YOU ALL.
THANK YOU.
FEH BUMP FEH BUMP FEH BUMP
FEH BUMP FEH BUMP FEH BUMP
FEH BUMP FEH BUMP FEH BUMP
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE!

NEW AVENGERS #60
LUKE CAGE: HERO RETIRED?!

THUNDERBOLTS #138
SCOURGE TAKES CONTROL!



DOCTOR VOODOO #3
PREPARE FOR BATTLE!

SPIDER-WOMAN #4
MADAME HYDRA MAKES HER MOVE!

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